

## Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/060 W

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R 071532Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9176

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL POZNAN

AMCONSUL KRAKOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PL, VT

SUBJECT: WROCLAW ARCHBISHOPRIC SUCCESSION RESOLVED

REF: WARSAW 1332, 3/11/74 NOTAL

1. THE POLISH EPISCOPATE AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF BISHOP HENRYK GULBINOWICZ TO SUCCEED THE LATE CARDINAL KOMINEK, ARCH-BISHOP OF WROCLAW, WHO DIED ON MARCH 11, 1974. BISHOP GULBINOWICZ, 48 YEARS OLD, HAS BEEN APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR IN BIALYSTOK SINCE 1970. HIS NAME WAS PRESENTED TO THE REGIME SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, ACCORDING TO AN EPISCOPATE OFFICIAL, AFTER SEVERAL PREVIOUS EPISCOPATE CANDIDATES HAD BEEN REJECTED. ALTHOUGH ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GULBINOWICZ HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN DOWN THE LIST OF EPISCOPATE PREFERENCES, THE OFFICIAL SAID HE HAD PERFORMED IMPRESSIVELY AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE BIALYSTOK DIOCESE, WHICH INCLUDED HANDLING SOME MATTERS PERTAIN-

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ING TO POLAND'S FORMER EASTERN TERRITORIES NOW IN THE

SOVIET UNION. THE OFFICIAL EXPRESSED UNRESTRAINED JOY THAT THE SUCCESSION IMPASSE IS FINALLY RESOLVED. GUBINOWICZ'S APPOINTMENT IS TO BE ANNOUNCED ON JANUARY 7, WITH INVESTITURE EXPECTED IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SANDOMIERZ AND SOME LESSER BISHOPRICS REMAIN VACANT, THE QUESTION OF FILLING THE WROCLAW ARCHDIOCESE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES PLAGUING CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS. ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, CHURCH, STATE, AND VATICAN, ARE DOUBTLESS RELIEVED TO HAVE IT SETTLED. ITS RESOLUTION WILL NOT DIRECTLY AFFECT THE MANY LONG-TERM ISSUES DIVIDING CHURCH AND STATE HERE, BUT IT WILL IMPROVE THE CLIMATE OF THE RELATIONSHIP. MOREOVER, AS A CONCILIATORY GESTURE, IT COMES AT A PROPITIOUS TIME FOR THE REGIME, WHICH IS ANXIOUS TO RALLY THE POPULATION BEHIND THE PROGRAM PROMULGATED BY THE RECENT SEVENTH PARTY CONGRESS.  
DAVIES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 JAN 1976  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** WROCLAW ARCHBISHOPRIC SUCCESSION RESOLVED  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, PL, VT, (CARDINAL KOMINEK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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